

ABSTRACT

This Determination of Eligibility Report presents the results of a detailed cultural resource planning study conducted in preparation for proposed corridor improvements to U.S. 301 in St. Georges, Pencader, and Appoquinimink Hundreds, New Castle County, Delaware. The purposes of the proposed improvements are to enhance safety, reduce traffic congestion, and improve traffic flow. A number of alternatives are being explored to meet these needs. This report was prepared in conjunction with Rummel, Klepper, and Kahl (RK&K) for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to assist in the evaluation of historic resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

Generally, the limits of the APE extend from the Maryland state line, north along U.S. 301, to just south of the Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal. North of Middletown, the APE extends west and runs briefly along Choptank Road and extends east to SR 1.

A *Historic Context and Reconnaissance Survey Report* for the 301 study area was produced in July 2005 and revised in July 2006. As part of the prior report, previous work relevant to the historical development of the APE was examined and photocopied, including the Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms on file at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO). A reconnaissance survey of the APE was then conducted to field verify previously documented and/or evaluated resources, identify new resources, and observe resource types; a total of 220 resources were identified during the reconnaissance survey effort. Through the synthesis of the previous studies and the results of the reconnaissance survey, the historical development of the APE and relevant property types and registration requirements were established.

Following the development and consideration of alternatives, the APE for the project was refined to the intensive level APE that was used for the current study. The purpose of the intensive level survey was to identify and complete Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms for all historic resources in the APE and to assess the National Register eligibility of previously unevaluated pre-1963 buildings and structures. Archival research was conducted when necessary to assist in an understanding of the resources' development and an evaluation of their significance. Additionally, resources with previous determinations or listings were examined in order to determine if they retained sufficient integrity to convey their historic significance. The prepared historic contexts were used in the evaluation of the National Register eligibility of related resources.

A total of 188 resources were examined as part of the intensive level survey. Twenty-one resources in the intensive level APE have been listed in the National Register; 12 of these were listed as a result of the multiple property nomination form, *Rebuilding St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, 1850-1880* (Herman et al. 1985). Seven resources were previously determined eligible, and 12 resources were previously determined not eligible. The number of resources within the intensive level APE that were present on the landscape by 1962 and were not previously evaluated for National Register eligibility totals 148.

The National Register boundaries of many of the previously listed resources were not clearly presented in the original National Register nominations. For the purposes of the Section 106 process, National Register boundary clarifications are included in this report. The field survey also revealed that the integrity of six of the previously listed and/or determined eligible resources has been compromised.

Based on the results of the survey findings, nine properties surveyed for this project are recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. One hundred forty-five resources are recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register due to lack of significance and/or integrity; six of the recommended not eligible resources are previously listed or determined eligible resources that have lost integrity.

Section 6.0 outlines recommendations for future work. Following approval of this report by the DE SHPO, Contact Sheet Forms (CRS 12) will be prepared for each roll of 35 mm negatives taken. The roll numbers will be assigned by the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO) staff. Photographic Inventory Cards (CRS 13) will be provided for individual properties. The GIS database prepared for this project has been provided to DelDOT.